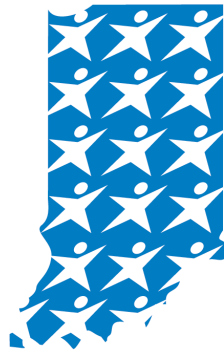


# Rural Capacity Grant Project Overviews



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**Community & Rural Affairs**

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# **Overview of the Rural Capacity Grant Program**

The Rural Capacity Grants (RCG) were created to generate partnerships and leverage resources in rural Indiana communities. In 2006, OCRA created a grant process that challenged communities to develop creative ways to build capacity in workforce and educational development and in rural entrepreneurship.

The Rural Entrepreneurial Support RCG helps promising rural entrepreneurs find mentoring, training, and resources. OCRA will ensure that entrepreneurs know where to turn for funding, business plan development, marketing, and information needed to build or expand successful businesses.

The Workforce and Educational Development RCG brings Hoosiers' skills up to globally competitive levels by creating opportunities for workers to move at least one step up the talent scale. Those steps range from increasing literacy to developing strategic skills.

## **Rural Entrepreneurial Support (Data obtained since December 2007)**

• Number of participants in programs supported by an RCG	2,472
• Number of business plans developed	56
• Number of new businesses opened	9
• Jobs created	5
• Amount of additional dollars leveraged	\$65,000

## **Workforce and Educational Development (Data obtained since December 2007)**

• Number of participants in programs supported by an RCG	2,355
• Number of post secondary college credits awarded	40
• Interviews received because of an RCG program	45
• Number of jobs attained	47

**For more information on the Rural Capacity Grants and to request an application, please contact your Community Liaison (see map on page 3), call 800.824.2476 or go to OCRA's Web site at <http://www.in.gov/ocra/ruralcapacitygrants.shtml>.**



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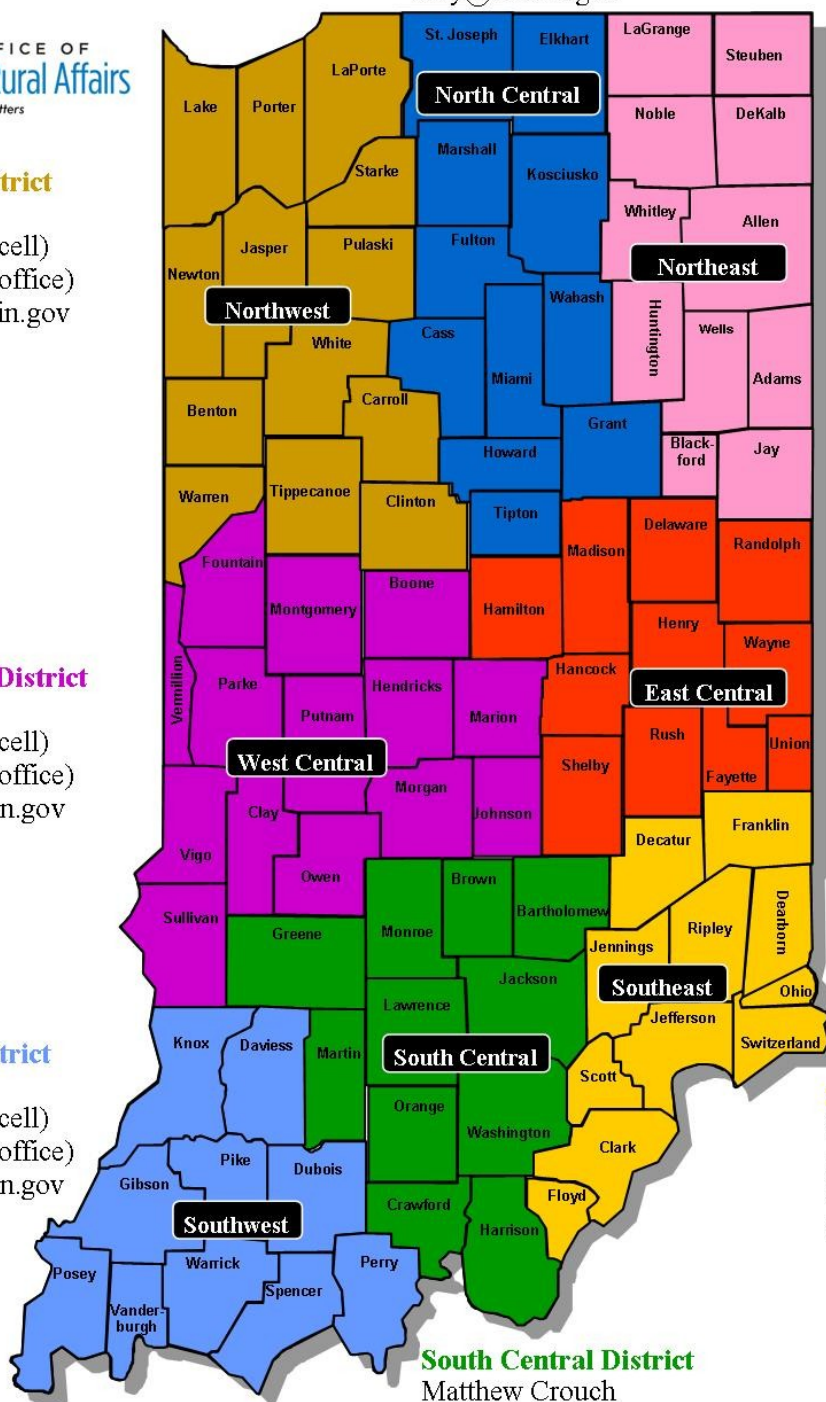
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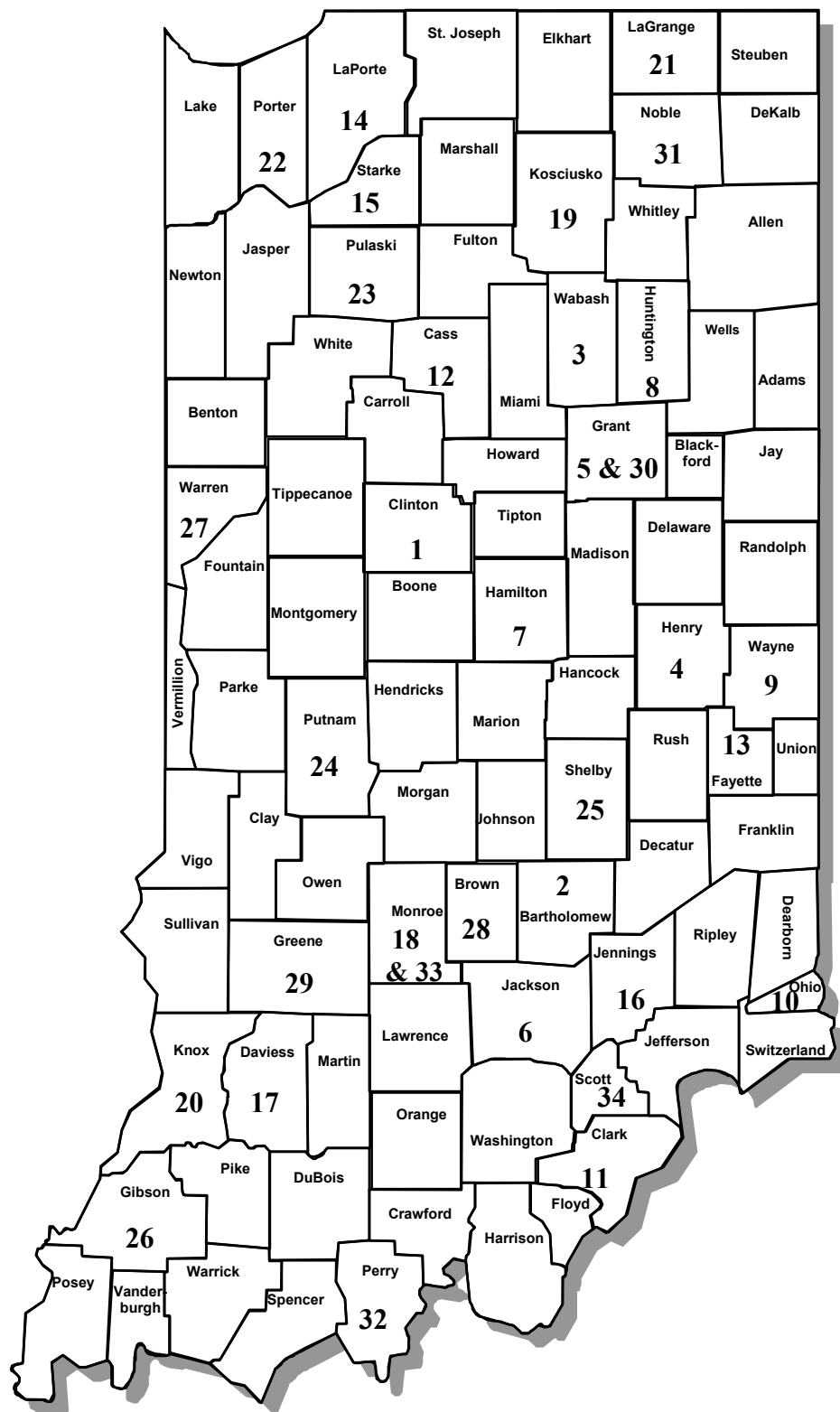
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## Community Liaison District Map

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The map below demonstrates where OCRA has awarded Rural Capacity Grants in rural Indiana. The number placement also coincides with the project descriptions on the following pages.



# Entrepreneurial Support RCG

## Round I 2006

- 1. Grantee Name: Clinton County Chamber of Commerce**  
**Project Title: Clinton County Small Business Revitalization**  
**Project Description:** The Clinton County Chamber of Commerce received a grant to hire a small business development director to work with local business owners to assist in all facets of small business development. The project also includes development of a farmer's market. Expected outcomes include an increase in new business start-ups, education, and training for existing businesses and youth.
- 2. Grantee Name: Columbus Enterprise Development Corporation (CEDC)**  
**Project Title: The Rural Capital Network**  
**Project Description:** The Columbus Enterprise Development Corporation received a grant to fund the Rural Capital Network, which focuses on capacity-building, specifically capital formation and financial literacy for rural entrepreneurs. The program's three primary objectives are to build relationships between investors and entrepreneurs, provide financial education for entrepreneurs, and form a regional private investor network.
- 3. Grantee Name: Economic Development Group of Wabash County, Inc.**  
**Project Title: Downtown Entrepreneurship Capacity Building**  
**Project Description:** The Economic Development Group of Wabash County, Inc. received a grant to identify, train, counsel, mentor, and assist businesses in capitalizing upon the growing tourism and entertainment business in Wabash County. The goal of the project is to assist in the start-up of "home-grown" businesses, which will foster wealth creation and encourage entrepreneurial growth and opportunities.
- 4. Grantee Name: Eastern Indiana Regional Workforce Board**  
**Project Title: StartUp Indiana**  
**Project Description:** The Eastern Indiana Regional Workforce Board received a grant to fund the Investor Network, an expansion of the Growth Start Project. The network enables rural entrepreneurs to have more successes in launching start-ups by connecting entrepreneurs with potential investors.
- 5. Grantee Name: Grant County Economic Development Growth Council**  
**Project Title: The Innovative Network**  
**Project Description:** The Grant County Economic Growth Council received a grant to fund the Innovative Network program, which aims to gather 200 participants to complete an educational program generating 100 business plans. Potential growth includes six new business start-ups and 70 new jobs. Target participants include Grant County youth in grades 8-12, college students, and entrepreneurs facing the challenges of low income, unemployment, and underemployment.

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**6. Grantee Name: Greater Seymour Chamber of Commerce**

**Project Title: Jackson County Business Academy**

**Project Description:** The Greater Seymour Chamber of Commerce received a grant to fund the Jackson County Business Academy, which helps new businesses grow. The Academy provides entrepreneurial education in three parts: "Business 101" courses taught through the Small Business Development Center; "The Entrepreneurship Program," a series of workshops covering the keys to entrepreneurial success; and an "E-Business Coach" consultant to help local businesses take advantage of the Internet.



**7. Grantee Name: Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation and Development**

**Project Title: Rural Entrepreneurship Network (REN)**

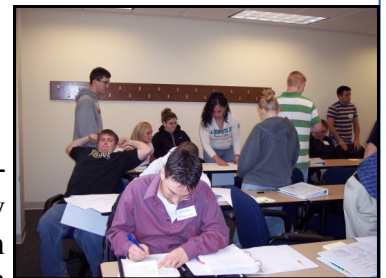
**Project Description:** The Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation and Development received a grant to fund the Rural Entrepreneurship Network (REN), which identifies, trains, and develops rural entrepreneurs in a 10-county region of central Indiana. The grant is being used to expand their current operations to at least 24 additional counties and includes a new business plan training module.



**8. Grantee Name: Huntington County United Economic Development Corporation**

**Project Title: Accelerating Community Entrepreneurs (ACE)**

**Project Description:** The Huntington County United Economic Development Corporation received a grant to support the Accelerating Community Entrepreneurs (ACE) program, which facilitates new business formation in rural Huntington County. The program aligns potential entrepreneurs with current business owners looking to expand. It also focuses on K-12 education initiatives that make students aware of entrepreneurial options, while teaching them valuable skills such as how to write business plans.



**9. Grantee Name: Main Street Richmond-Wayne County, Inc.**

**Project Description:** Main Street Richmond-Wayne County, Inc. received a grant to provide entrepreneurship training through the Kauffman Institute's FastTrac Programs. The project focuses on leadership development, network opportunities such as the "Breakfast and Investors" series, a business plan competition, and an entrepreneurial conference. The project also provides "Business Boot Camp" opportunities for youth in the area.

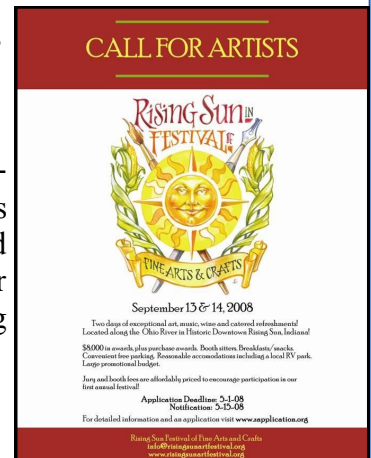
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**10. Grantee Name: Ohio County Convention Tourism and Visitors Commission**

**Project Title: Arts IN**

**Project Description:** The Ohio County Convention Tourism and Visitors Commission received a grant to improve artist-entrepreneur success rates, increase cultural opportunities for residents and visitors, and strengthen Rising Sun's position as a desirable tourist destination. Their goals include supporting national and international artists and increasing tourism.



**11. Grantee Name: Southern Indiana Minority Enterprise Initiative, Inc.**

**Project Title: Creating a Climate for Minority Business Development through Heritage Tourism**

**Project Description:** The Southern Indiana Minority Enterprise Initiative, Inc. received a grant to fund Creating a Climate for Minority Business Development through Heritage Tourism, which focuses on minority business development and an African American heritage tourism trail. This project provides increased understanding of tourism as an economic development tool, increased opportunities for minorities to engage in tourism-related business ventures, and increased public understanding of an important part of Indiana's early history.

# Entrepreneurial Support RCG

## Round II 2007

**12. Grantee Name: Area Five Agency on Aging and Community Services, Inc.**

**Project Title: SUCCEED**

**Project Description:** The Area Five Agency on Aging and Community Services, Inc. received a grant to fund SUCCEED, a multi-faceted approach to creating a more entrepreneurial culture by targeting multiple sections of the community. The program seeks to reach out to various segments of the population ranging from eight year old school children to business owners of all ages. The expansion of this program includes improved marketing, an orientation program, a feasibility workshop, and development of a middle school component.

**13. Grantee Name: Community Education Coalition, Inc.**

**Project Title: Community Education Coalition: Educating Entrepreneurs**

**Project Description:** The Community Education Coalition, Inc. received a grant to support "Educating Entrepreneurs," a program aimed at launching an incubator program, establishing an angel investor network to serve entrepreneurs in the region, and coordinating capacity building programming.

**14. Grantee Name: Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce-Entrepreneur Center Michigan City**

**Project Title: Entrepreneur Center Michigan City**

**Project Description:** The Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce-Entrepreneur Center Michigan City received a grant to expand its available business-related classes to include Microsoft Office, Business Soft Skills, Customer Service, and Web Site Design. The center provides office space at low rates to entrepreneurs creating viable small businesses.

**15. Grantee Name: Starke County Development Foundation**

**Project Title: Energizing Entrepreneurs**

**Project Description:** The Starke County Development Foundation received a grant to fund the Energizing Entrepreneurs Institute program, a three and a half day workshop focused on developing an action plan for supporting local entrepreneurs. The action plan will be implemented by the Small Business Development Office, which also provides counseling services, educational programs, and a mentoring/networking program.

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# Workforce and Educational Development RCG Round I 2006

**16. Grantee Name: City of North Vernon**

**Project Title: Certification Courses for the North Vernon Education and Training Center**

**Project Description:** The City of North Vernon received a grant to provide three new certification courses for 145 people at the North Vernon Education and Training Center. The courses include Workplace Readiness Certification, MSSC Manufacturing Production Technician Certification, and Customer Service and Sales Skill Standard Certification. The certification courses are provided through partnerships with the City of North Vernon, Jennings County School Corporation, and Ivy Tech Department of Workforce Development.

**17. Grantee Name: Daviess County Economic Development Foundation**

**Project Title: Advanced Manufacturing Productivity Center**

**Project Description:** Daviess County Economic Development Foundation received a grant to fund advanced manufacturing training, which teaches computer aided design and manufacturing programs, computer-numerical-control, and advanced manufacturing metrics including blueprint reading and business concepts. This program allows instructors to develop and deliver its curriculum, markets the program to businesses in the community, and allows them to assist in the placement of the trainees.



**18. Grantee Name: Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Foundation**

**Project Title: Stay in School/Get HIRED**

**Project Description:** The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Foundation received a grant to fund Stay in School/Get HIRED, which allows a coordinator to develop Stay in School (SIS) plans with at-risk students. The program works with WorkOne, the Franklin Initiative, and the Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation. Ivy Tech Coordinators are available to offer resources to aid students in graduating and obtaining skills to find gainful employment. The program seeks to minimize the drop-out rate and to assist at least 30 new and former drop-outs from Ellettsville in finding employment.

**19. Grantee Name: Health Care Foundation of Kosciusko County, Inc.**

**Project Title: Realty Spanish™ Program of Northeast Indiana**

**Project Description:** The Health Care Foundation of Kosciusko County, Inc. received a grant to fund an expansion of the Realty Spanish™ Program of Northeast Indiana from one county to 17. This expansion includes increasing capacity from 24 trainers to 50, three training modules to four, and the number of Master Trainers from one to eight so they can train and recertify new trainers. The program seeks to build bridges between English-speaking and Spanish-speaking people in the fields of education, law enforcement, and healthcare.

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**20. Grantee Name: Knox County Development Corporation**

**Project Title: Business Solution Project**

**Project Description:** The Knox County Development Corporation received a grant to fund the Business Solution Project, which utilizes the already established Employment Skills Academy and Vincennes University to focus on business solutions. The Business Solutions Project will service approximately 100 students and 180 participants through its Virtual Manufacturing Training, by improving productivity skills, industrial skills, and manufacturing maintenance knowledge.

**21. Grantee Name: Learning Generation Initiative**

**Project Title: Learning Generation Initiative**

**Project Description:** The Learning Generation Initiative (LGI) received a grant to address critical educational attainment needs in Elkhart and LaGrange counties. The program provides a course study to 50 teachers to serve Latinos in partnership with the Northeastern Center, the Hispanic/Latino Health Coalition of Elkhart County, and the Institute of Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame. The additional teachers will allow the LGI to expand educational offerings from four to eight rural-based community sites.

**22. Grantee Name: Northwest Indiana Workforce Board (NWIWB)**

**Project Title: Computer and Logistics Training**

**Project Description:** The Northwest Indiana Workforce Board received a grant to fund computer and logistics training, which provides Internet and computing core certification training for 20 people resulting in IC3 certification. It also offers career development certification, with a concentration in logistics, from Ivy Tech for 10 people. The project is a response to area employers' needs.

**23. Grantee Name: Pulaski Alliance for Community Education (PACE)**

**Project Title: Advanced Welder Training**

**Project Description:** The Pulaski Alliance for Community Education (PACE) received a grant to fund the PACE Adult Welding Program. The program is expanding existing partnerships between businesses, schools, and community leaders. The program seeks to provide nine levels of welding courses to 108 students over 18 months, in order to fill a projected shortage of welders in the region.

**24. Grantee Name: Putnam County Community Foundation**

**Project Title: Knoy Resource Center - Adult and Youth Soft Skills Training**

**Project Description:** The Putnam County Community Foundation received a grant to support the Knoy Resource Center - Adult and Youth Soft Skills Training. The center provides training programs to both adults and youth in goal-setting, decision-making, conflict resolution, financial planning, stress management, teamwork, time management, problem solving, and interviewing.



**25. Grantee Name: Shelby County Life Long Learning, Inc.**

**Project Title: Advanced Manufacturing Academy**

**Project Description:** Shelby County Life Long Learning, Inc. received a grant to fund the Advanced Manufacturing Academy. Through this program, up to 75 young adults will obtain valuable skills and a paid three-week internship at a local manufacturing firm.

**26. Grantee Name: Southwest Indiana Network for Education**

**Project Title: Manufacturing Career Awareness Project**

**Project Description:** The Southwest Indiana Network for Education received a grant to fund the Manufacturing Career Awareness Project, which is an approach to building a skilled labor pool of emerging workers for southwestern Indiana. The Southwest Indiana Network for Education developed a presentation on career awareness to present to local high schools, middle schools, and vocational schools. Also, 20 career learning exchange opportunities are partnering teachers and students with interests in scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics careers with local business and industry leaders. As part of the program, sixty students had the opportunity to attend a one-week manufacturing workshop in collaboration with Vincennes University.



**27. Grantee Name: Warren County Local Economic Development Organization**

**Project Title: Wabash Valley Workforce Consortium**

**Project Description:** The Warren County Local Economic Development Organization received a grant to fund the Wabash Valley Workforce Consortium, which is continuing its service of mutual training opportunities by expanding the service to Fountain and Benton counties. The addition of employees serves as an agent to access further training grants and contributes to the economic development of the Wabash Valley region.

# Workforce and Educational Development RCG Round II 2007

- 28. Grantee Name: Career Resource Center of Brown County**  
**Project Description:** The Career Resource Center of Brown County received a grant to fund a project aimed at enhancing the transferable skills of high school and GED students using the *KeyTrain* employment system and related workshops. As part of the program, students receive stipends or commissions for each level of achievement attained and have the opportunity to practice their new skills through coordinating career workshops.
- 29. Grantee Name: Greene County Grant and Professional Development Consortium/White River Valley School Corporation**  
**Project Title: Project Lead the Way**  
**Project Description:** The Greene County Grant and Professional Development Consortium received a grant on behalf of five Greene County school corporations including Eastern Greene, Bloomfield, White River Valley, Linton Stockton, and MSD Shakamak. In order to address the needs of the county, the project was designed to provide a framework of success for students and incorporate career-oriented topics into student instruction. The funds are being used to develop a comprehensive career awareness program for K-12 students, implement a career pathways model which utilizes students' academic strengths, and develop programs that encourage women and minorities to pursue math, science, and technology careers.
- 30. Grantee Name: Ivy Tech Community College - Marion Campus**  
**Project Title: Ag Skills Project**  
**Project Description:** Ivy Tech Community College – Marion received a grant to fund an agricultural skills program that encourages rural citizens to develop technical skills. The program encourages participants to build on existing skills and provides multiple outlets to explore career interests. Local employment is encouraged through the program. The project's major components include implementation of an agriculture career pathway, agriculture career days, a welding certification, and integrated remediation.
- 31. Grantee Name: Literacy Empowering and Advocating Project (LEAP) of Noble County**  
**Project Title: Enhancing Skills Among Adult Latino Populations in Rural Indiana**  
**Project Description:** The Literacy Empowering and Advocating Project (LEAP) of Noble County, Inc. received a grant to fund a project aimed at enhancing education, workforce, and entrepreneurial skills among the adult Latino population in rural Indiana. This is being accomplished through expanding programmatic offerings locally by increasing geographic accessibility and incorporating additional education and workforce development content into current curriculum. The project also creates a statewide support system for educational and workforce providers who target an adult Latino audience.

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**32. Grantee Name: Perry County Learning Partnership**

**Project Title: Expansion of Perry County Basic Service Skills Certification**

**Project Description:** The Perry County Learning Partnership received a grant to fund an expansion of the Perry County Basic Service Skills Certification. A summer institute will be conducted to connect the education and business communities. Local teachers and business representatives will be invited to participate in the one-day session. Workshops will focus on team-building and incorporating employment issues into today's classrooms.

**33. Grantee Name: Richland—Bean Blossom Community School Corporation**

**Project Title: The Edge**

**Project Description:** The Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation received a grant to fund "The Edge" intervention program for at-risk youths. The program requires students to participate in supervised workforce or service learning projects, which utilize a support structure to help participants realize their potential. Workforce coaches create and implement individualized service plans for each student based on his/her academic and workforce readiness needs. Students also complete an online course curriculum through the Keys4Learning system.

**34. Grantee Name: Scott County Economic Development Corporation**

**Project Title: Rural Technology Future Project**

**Project Description:** The Scott County Economic Development Corporation received a grant to fund the Rural Technology Future Project, which provides Web-based networking and asset tracking to citizens, communities, and businesses. The project includes a database of youth in the community, feedback from online school surveys, a database of young people who have relocated but are willing to return to the area if opportunity arises, and a business succession portal.



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